

# VERMONTERS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Vermonters. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Vermont. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Vermont.*

## **INCOME: VERMONTERS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Vermont was \$46,797.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Vermont was \$49,808, a modest increase of 6.4 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN VERMONT HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Vermont had 52,000 adults without insurance (8.7 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Vermont had 73,000 adults without insurance (11.7 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Vermont had 6,614 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN VERMONT**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Vermont was \$12,836.<sup>6</sup> In 2005, it was \$15,658, a 22 percent increase.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Vermont was \$22,312.<sup>8</sup> In 2005, it was \$27,261, a 22 percent increase.<sup>9</sup>
- Number of Vermonters affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 7,970<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Vermonters affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 9,203<sup>11</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR VERMONT RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Vermont was \$1.471 a gallon.<sup>12</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Vermont is \$2.543 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Vermont was \$2,155.<sup>14</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Vermont is \$3,725, \$1,570 (72.9 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>15</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: VERMONTERS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Vermont – 110,180<sup>16</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Vermont – \$859<sup>17</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: VERMONTERS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Vermonters killed in Iraq – 18<sup>18</sup>
- Number of Vermonters wounded in Iraq – 83<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Vermonters killed in Afghanistan – 1<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Vermonters wounded in Afghanistan – 2<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Vermont – 57,802<sup>22</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING VERMONT'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 10 estates in Vermont paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>23</sup>
- Only 21 estates in Vermont will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>24</sup>

## **CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN VERMONT IS ON THE RISE**

- Number of Violent Crimes in Vermont per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 113.5<sup>25</sup>
- Number of Violent Crimes in Vermont per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 119.7<sup>26</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$3,466,853<sup>27</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$2,912,322<sup>28</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST VERMONTERS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Vermonters.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Vermont residents each received an average of \$1,733 in tax cuts, while middle class Vermont residents received only \$413.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Vermont residents will receive an average of \$29,352 in tax cuts, while middle class Vermont residents will only receive - \$764.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Vermont residents will each receive an average of \$70,014 in tax cuts, while middle class Vermont residents will only receive \$881.<sup>31</sup>

**The richest Vermonters receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Vermonters received 4.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 19.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>32</sup>

- But, in 2006, the richest Vermonters will get 21.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.1 percent of the tax cut.<sup>33</sup>
- And, in 2010, the richest Vermonters will get 43.1 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.9 percent of the tax cut.<sup>34</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Vermonters.**

- In 2010, the richest Vermonters will receive an average of \$9,666 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Vermonters will be getting over 34.1 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>35</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Vermonters will receive an average of \$63 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 4.4 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>36</sup>

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